

THE CITIZEN

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U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

December 26, 2006

Stuttgart, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

Happy Holidays!

*Celebrations help holiday season
start on festive note in Stuttgart*

Pages 7-10



Hugh C. McBride

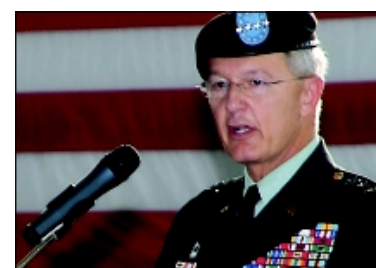
U.S. European Command Deputy Commander Gen. William E. Ward joins Santa on stage in Patch Barracks' Washington Square to help welcome the holiday season Dec. 1 during U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's second annual Winterfest celebration. For more about how Stuttgarters celebrated the start of the 2006 holiday season see pages 7 to 10.

CRADDOCK TAKES COMMAND

Gen. Bantz Craddock succeeds Gen. James Jones as commander of U.S. European Command

The leadership of U.S. European Command passes from Gen. James Jones to Gen. Bantz Craddock during a Dec. 4 change-of-command ceremony in the Patch Fitness Center.

For more about the ceremony – which was attended by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Peter Pace and Secretary of the Army Gordon England, see page 3.



'An honor and a humbling responsibility'

New SecDef sends first message to DoD personnel

By Robert M. Gates
Department of Defense

It is an honor, and a humbling responsibility, to take the helm of this Department in a time of war and to lead men and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting our country.

In the coming weeks I will visit some of the key military posts and commands at home and abroad, as well as consult with this Department's senior civilian and military leaders and staff. I look forward to meeting and hearing from the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who are the true heart and strength of America's armed forces. As the President has asked for my unvarnished advice, I expect the same of you.

Over the years of leading big institutions, I have learned something important: leaders come and go, but the professionals endure long after the appointees are gone.

The key to successful leadership, in my view, is to involve in the decision making process, early and often, those who ultimately must carry out the decisions. I will do my best to do that.

This Department is always engaged in a host of different activities that aid our nation's defense. All are important, all are valuable. The most important issue we face is the situation in Iraq.

By removing the brutal and dangerous regime of Saddam Hussein, and by confronting the extremists and insurgents who have sought to derail any progress since, the United States and our Coalition partners have provided the Iraqi people a unique opportunity to have a decent future.

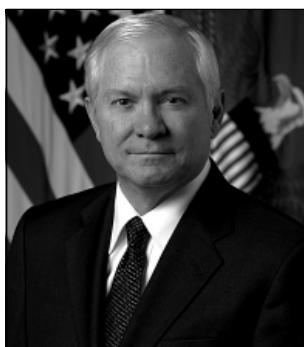
The violence in Iraq must be contained and reduced.

CORRECTION

In an article on page 4 of the Nov. 21 edition of *The Citizen*, Ligia Steers should have been identified as the Army Family Team Building program manager, not the director of Army Community Service.

I look forward to meeting and hearing from the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who are the true heart and strength of America's armed forces.

Over the years of leading big institutions, I have learned something important: Leaders come and go, but the professionals endure long after the appointees are gone.



Gates

Failure in that part of the world would be a calamity that would haunt our nation, impair our credibility, and endanger Americans for decades to come.

A successful outcome in Iraq, one that will help protect our nation and serve her long-term interests, will require all elements of America's national power to work more effectively together, in cooperation with allies and partners in the region.

Afghanistan has made great strides since being liberated five years ago, but that progress is now at risk. The United States and our NATO allies have made a commitment to prevent the Taliban from taking over Afghanistan again. We intend to keep it.

How we face these and other challenges over the next two years will determine whether Iraq, Afghanistan, and other nations at a crossroads will pursue paths of gradual progress, or whether the forces of extremism and chaos will become ascendant.

As we address these challenges, it is important that we

carry forward the process of what has been referred to as defense transformation. President Bush made it a priority at the beginning of his administration to help our military become more agile, more lethal, and more expeditionary. Much has been accomplished; much remains to be done. This task remains a necessity and a priority today.

It is also essential that we make every effort to ensure that tax dollars are spent wisely and carefully, and that we continue to maintain and enforce ethical standards of doing business. In a department as large as this one, neither task will be done perfectly, but it is important that we strive to do our best.

Our country is at war. I take this job with the knowledge that my decisions will have life-and-death consequences for America's troops, as well as their families. I have accepted that responsibility, and will never forget it.

To all of the men and women of the U.S. military: You serve in the finest traditions of those who have worn this nation's uniform these past 230 years. It is a high honor to serve with you as Secretary of Defense.

May God bless you and may God bless the wonderful country we have sworn an oath to protect.

Gates became the 22nd Secretary of Defense Dec. 18. This message and other information about the Department of Defense is available online at www.defenselink.mil.

THE CITIZEN

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U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander

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www.stuttgart.army.mil

Missing ID cards undermine community security effort

By Gen. David D. McKiernan
U.S. Army Europe

The loss or theft of a DOD ID card is a serious matter, one that represents a significant security risk to the U.S. Forces in Europe.

Each time an ID card is lost or stolen, the chance of an unauthorized individual obtaining access to our installations increases. It is therefore essential that cardholders take extra measures to protect their ID cards.

In addition to security concerns, cardholders should be aware of the danger of identity theft.

ID cards have personal information that identity thieves can use to gain access to bank accounts, obtain credit cards, take out loans, and ultimately devastate the cardholder's credit rating.

For this reason, personnel are discouraged from frequenting establishments that hold ID cards as a security against payment of a tab.

Not only is this a breach of security and regulatory guidance, it is an opportunity for identity thieves to copy personal information.

Leaders must stress the importance of ID card security at appropriate forums and in command and community publications.

Commanders should remain aware of ID card losses and thefts by checking the daily military police blotter or using locally established leader-notification procedures.

Depending on the facts, loss or wrongful disposition of an ID card by a Soldier may violate the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), Article 108.

If contemplating action under the UCMJ, commanders must consult their legal advisors and adhere to all provisions of Rules for Courts-Martial 303 and 306.

Cardholders must understand the importance of maintaining possession and control of their ID cards at all times.

Personnel whose ID card is lost or stolen must report the loss or theft immediately to the nearest military police station.

The military police will ensure that the ID card is invalidated in the Installation Access Control System so that it cannot be used to obtain access to installations.

The military police will also issue a memorandum verifying that an official report of the loss or theft has been made. This memorandum must be given to the ID card-issuing office before the card can be replaced.

Lost and stolen cards must be reported and replaced as quickly as possible.

Additional administrative procedures that would delay the reporting of a lost or stolen ID card and the issue of a new card (for example, requiring the commander's authorization or the supervisor's signature) are inappropriate.

Given the current world environment and the constant threat of terrorist attack, the security of our installations and our personnel is critical.

By properly protecting our ID cards, we can help ensure that this security is not compromised.

McKiernan is commander of U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army. This and other "McKiernan Sends" messages can be accessed online at www.hqusareur.army.mil.



Adam Gramarossa (Stuttgart Multimedia)

Gen. Bantz Craddock, the new commander of U.S. European Command, addresses attendees during EUCOM's Dec. 4 command change ceremony in the Patch Fitness Center. Craddock succeeded Gen. James L. Jones at the EUCOM helm.

Craddock takes command Succeeds Jones at EUCOM helm

By Tech. Sgt. Devin L. Fisher
U.S. European Command Public Affairs

Army Gen. John Craddock took the reins of U.S. European Command during a change of command ceremony Dec. 4 on Stuttgart's Patch Barracks.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England presided over the ceremony that transferred command to Craddock from Marine Gen. James L. Jones, who had served as the EUCOM commander since Jan. 16, 2003.

"U.S. European Command remains in strong capable hands. Our nation is blessed to have a person of [Craddock's] caliber and experience to take on this vital mantle of leadership," England said.

The EUCOM commander's responsibility spans 92 nations in Europe, Africa and the Middle East and he commands five U.S. components: U.S. Army, Europe; U.S. Navy, Europe; U.S. Air Forces in Europe, U.S. Marine Forces, Europe and Special Operations Command, Europe.

Craddock, who is the 14th EUCOM commander, ensured the European Command staff that their hard work has not been unnoticed.

"Your reputation for excellence and your extraordinary competence have been and continue to be an inspiration for all," Craddock said. "Day in and day out you provide an example of sterling professionalism to more than 90 countries."

He said he is honored and humbled to join the European Command team. "My pledge to you is to give you full measure of effort, 100 percent every day, and to lead by example from the front."

Craddock, who previously served as the commander of U.S. Southern Command in Miami, will also serve as the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe following a Dec. 7, 2006, change of command ceremony in Mons, Belgium.

"I won't forget that European Command and its components have formed the backbone of the North Atlantic Alliance," Craddock said. "Make no mistake, we will continue to work with our partners to protect the United States and our Allies in the war on terrorism while at the same time laying the foundation for peace and prosperity."

England said Jones' extraordinary accomplishments and successes throughout his 40-year military career will have a lasting effect and influence on the future of NATO, European Command, the Marine Corps and the countries within the European Command theater.

"Jones is a magnificent leader and a warrior-statesman in the mold of the famous George C. Marshall, but most of all he is a Marine's Marine," England said.

I won't forget that European Command and its components have formed the backbone of the North Atlantic Alliance.

We will continue to work with our partners to protect the United States and our allies in the war on terrorism while at the same time laying the foundation for peace and prosperity.

Gen. Bantz Craddock
U.S. European Command

"Under his leadership, [European Command] has had extraordinary success in hardcore war fighting, building and strengthening partnerships from the Balkans to the countries of Africa to Iraq and Afghanistan, to the countries of the former Soviet Union," he continued. "All these efforts directly support the strategic vision of our nation and of our friends and allies for the transformation necessary to meet the security challenges of the 21st Century."

The Deputy Secretary of Defense also thanked the men and women of European Command for their service.

"[You] stand at the front lines of the great struggle for freedom," England said. "Thank you for your dedication, courage, service and sacrifice ... and for everything you do every day to leave a better world for our children and our grandchildren."

Jones echoed the praise. "You have been magnificent," he said. "You have performed during the most difficult and challenging time of change. You have gone through transformation of not only capabilities, but indeed of philosophy."

Jones said that in addition to reaffirming the command's role to fight and win when required, the European Command staff has added equal importance to the value of deterrence and prevention of potential conflict and confirming the command's commitment to help emerging democracies reach their full potential.

The general praised each of European Command's component and the National Guard for their contribution to the "great team effort."

Jones will retire with more than 40 years of military service following the Supreme Allied Command, Europe change of command ceremony.

For more about EUCOM visit www.eucom.mil.

News & Notes

Holiday worship schedule

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Chaplain's Office has announced the following schedule for holiday worship on area installations:

Catholic

- Dec. 20 – Christmas Pageant, 6 p.m., Patch Chapel
- Dec. 24 – Midnight Mass, 11:30 p.m., Patch Chapel
- Dec. 25 – Christmas Mass, 9 a.m., Patch Chapel
- Dec. 25 – Christmas Mass, 11:30 a.m., RB Chapel

Lutheran

- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service, 6 p.m., RB Chapel

Protestant

- Dec. 24 – Regular worship, 11 a.m., Patch Chapel
- Dec. 24 – Candlelight Service, 7 p.m., Patch Chapel

For more information call 421-5000/civ. 0711- 680-5000.

GAWC grant applications available

The German-American Women's Club is now taking applications for 2006-07 grants.

Applications can be found at Army Community Service (Washington Center, Patch Barracks).

For more information, or to request an electronic application form, email Roslyn Gallagher at gallaghr@eucom.mil.

Adult respite care providers needed

Army Community Service seeks caring individuals to serve as adult respite care providers.

The Respite Care Program offers a temporary relief period to family members responsible for the regular care of a person with a disability.

Care is provided on an hourly, daily or weekly basis.

For details call 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176.

MOPS meet monthly

Are you a mom with a child or children between the ages of birth and 5 years? Then come join us at MOPS, Mothers Of Pre-Schoolers.

We meet every first and third Wednesday of the month from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., in the Robinson Barracks Chapel Annex.

For more information contact Deb Holinger (07031-283-019, cdcjholinger@hotmail.com) or Jana Plank (07031-283-018, sjplank@mac.com).

Law Center holiday walk-in hours

The Stuttgart Law Center's Walk-In Wednesdays will operate on limited hours Dec. 20 and 27.

Attorneys will be available only between noon and 3:30 p.m. on these days.

All other office hours will remain the same.

For more information call 421-2609/civ. 0711-729-2609 or e-mail crystal.aldrige@us.army.mil

Get gifts at the Gussy Goose

From adults to kids, the Gussy Goose is the place to shop for the crafty person in your life!

The Goose has everything you need: gift baskets, scrap booking supplies, holiday fabrics, holiday decorations, and gift certificates!

And, especially for children, special holiday "make and take projects" in the Gussy Goose Demo Zone.

Army Airfield donations wanted

The Stuttgart Army Airfield is in need of donations to help entertain service members while they are waiting or working out in the new cardio room. Items needed are old VCR/DVD players and old television sets.

Pick up is available for any donated items.

For more information or to schedule a pick up call Staff Sgt. Gary at 421-4214/civ. 0711-729-4214.

Adoption support group

Stuttgart offers an adoption support group. The goal is to bring families together that have gone through the adoption process and to help those just getting started.

The group also has professionals in the community to help answer questions and ease concerns.

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month in Army Community Service, Patch Barracks, building 2307, 11 a.m. to noon.

For more information call 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176.

Share your lives, not your debt

Tips to avoid serious financial heartache

Story by Cpt. Michael Watts
Stuttgart Law Center

They say that love conquers all. Tell that to a collection agency. In the course of a marriage, married people will make hundreds of financial obligations that affect both of them. They might buy a car together, or a house, or even get a credit card in both their names. At the time, they're only thinking about sharing everything they have.

But what happens if they want to unshare it? Before taking on a debt with a spouse, consider this: it takes only a few hours for the two of you to walk into a bank together and get a credit card with both names on the account, but it is virtually impossible to get one name off of it.

And what happens if the relationship doesn't work out, and they're forced to separate. Who gets the property, and more importantly, who gets the debt? What happens if one spouse is the one who ran up the credit card bill and has all the stuff? What happens if the soon-to-be ex-spouse doesn't pay the bill?

Well, here is what happens. Let's assume that a Husband and Wife get a credit card together. They both use the credit card, but the Husband buys \$15,000 worth of motorcycle equipment for his motorcycle while the Wife buys \$2,000 worth of antique jewelry. After a few years, they divorce.

The bottom line is this: before you sign on the dotted line, know that you're responsible for everything, whether you bought it or not.

In the divorce decree, the property and the debt incurred during the marriage will be divided fairly equally, with a judge attempting to give each spouse the property and the debt that he or she incurred.

So in the above example, the judge would give the Husband the motorcycle equipment and the responsibility to pay the \$15,000 back, while the Wife would get the jewelry and the responsibility for the \$2,000.

The divorce decree would state that each party receives the property that he or she bought and is responsible for his or her share of the debt respectively.

But here's the catch: the credit card company does not care about the divorce. As far as it is concerned, each of them is still liable, equally, for \$17,000. It will get it back, one way or the other.

Now let's look at this example a bit further. Husband then takes his motorcycle and rides away into the sunset, never to be heard from again by anyone.

After the divorce, Wife cannot afford to make the payments on the credit card. The credit card company calls the Wife, and informs her that she is late on the payments and must pay or the debt will be considered delinquent and handed over to a collection agency. The Wife simply can't pay.

Her options now are almost none. Although it is unfair, the credit card company considers her fully liable for the whole amount, regardless of the divorce.

The judge has ordered that Husband pay his share, but how does the Wife enforce this order? Where is the Husband? If the Wife can find him, she'll have to take a copy of her divorce decree to the court in the state where

he lives and enter it there.

Assuming it gets entered, there is almost nothing the Wife can do to force the Husband to pay, because technically the debt belongs to the credit card company, and not the Wife, and she can't sue on its behalf. Her main option is to pay the entire debt and then sue the Husband for his share and her attorney's fees.

Needless to say, it's a sea of headaches.

Now, I know married couples think: "Well, we won't get divorced, and if we do, I want my name on everything so the court can know that it's half mine and give it to me if we separate."

In most states today, the name on the title is irrelevant when it comes to dividing property. A judge will hold a hearing to determine who bought the property and who should get it – in essence what is equitable.

And when it comes to consumer debt, such as credit cards, automobiles and especially student loans, the best rule is only one person should be responsible for it, and that is the person who uses it.

The bottom line is this: before you sign on the dotted line, know that you're responsible for everything, whether you bought it or not.

For more information contact the Stuttgart Law Center at 421-4152/civ. 0711-729-4152.

On the run for kids

Marathon committee distributes funds

Story by Raquel Hicks

The 24-Hour Marathon and Music Fest committee distributed funds Nov. 3 to 16 different Stuttgart youth organizations at their annual ceremony. This year's disbursement totaled \$12,450, up from last year's \$11,270, thanks to community volunteers and participation in the event.

Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Tobin stated that, "We were able to distribute funds to every single youth organization that requested funds." Tobin went on to say "I would like to thank each and every one of you. You volunteered your time not for money or fame or even for a thank you, you simply do it because it's the right thing."

Senior Master Sgt. Cory D. Carmichael, representative for the local school mentorship program stated, "This event gives us an opportunity to recognize great participation, and the mentorship program supports schools, tutors and readers. Volunteers from all units make this community great."

Lt. Col. Norman K. Matzke, coach for the Stuttgart Sabercats Youth wrestling team, said, "I want to thank the committee. This will go a long way towards purchasing uniforms and warm ups this season. We can't wait to represent Stuttgart this season."

Youth organizations that received funds were:

- Boy Scout Pack 324
- Boy Scout Pack 44
- Boy Scout Troop 324
- Girl Scouts of America – Stuttgart
- Stuttgart American Little League
- Stuttgart Youth Sports and Fitness
- Boeblingen Elementary/Middle School PTA
- Patch High School PTA



Brandon Beach

In addition to promoting unit camaraderie and encouraging healthy living, Stuttgart's annual 24-Hour Marathon is also a tremendous source of support for the area's youth organizations.

- Stuttgart Youth Soccer League
- Sitzmarker Ski Club
- Crew 1492
- Olympic Development Program – Stuttgart
- Stuttgart Piranhas Swim Team
- Stuttgart Sabercats Youth Wrestling Team
- Stuttgart Local Schools Mentorship Program

USO 'Salute' honors Stuttgart-based Marine



courtesy of Stuttgart USO

Gen. William E. Ward, deputy commander of U.S. European Command, awards Sgt. Diego Chavez of Marine Corps Forces Europe with this year's USO Service Salute in a Sept. 30 ceremony.

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart
Public Affairs Office Release

Sgt. Diego Chavez was honored with a USO Europe Service Salute during a Sept. 30 ceremony at the Kurhaus in Wiesbaden.

Since 1992, the USO "Salute" has recognized junior enlisted service members from each of the five U.S. military branches as well as the German Armed Forces for their "outstanding military and community achievements." Chavez serves with the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe based out of Panzer Kaserne.

For more information about the Stuttgart USO visit www.uso.org/stuttgart or call 430-5559/civ. 0711-680-5559.

Flu shots available in Stuttgart Clinic

Stuttgart Health Clinic Release

The Stuttgart Army Health Clinic has begun offering the seasonal influenza inoculation, as supplies are available, through the immunization clinic on Patch Barracks.

Inform the staff if you are pregnant, have an allergy to eggs or egg products, and make sure to bring your medical records and any yellow immunization cards you may have.

If supplies are low, the priority lies with active duty service members or civilians who are deploying.

The next priority is children between 6 and 59 months (must see a doctor if below the age of six years old), adults above the age of 50, medically high-risk personnel, personnel working with medically high-risk personnel and health care workers.

The immunization clinic's hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Thursdays 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Beat the blues this holiday season

Mayo Clinic Release

When stress is at its peak, it's hard to stop and regroup. Take steps to help prevent normal holiday depression from progressing into chronic depression. Try these tips:

Acknowledge your feelings. If you aren't near your loved ones, realize that it's normal to feel sadness or grief. It's OK to cry or express your feelings. You can't force yourself to be happy just because it's the holiday season.

Seek support. If you feel isolated or down, seek out family members and friends, or community, religious or social services. You don't have to go it alone.

Be realistic. As families change and grow, traditions often change as well. Hold on to those you can and want to. But understand in some cases that may no longer be possible. Instead, find new ways to celebrate.

Set differences aside. Try to accept family members and friends as they are, even if they don't live up to all your expectations.

Stick to a budget. Before you go shopping, decide how much money you can afford to spend on gifts and other items. Then be sure to stick to your budget. Don't try to buy happiness with an avalanche of gifts.

Learn to say no. Believe it or not, people will understand if you can't do certain projects or activities.

Don't abandon healthy habits. Don't let the holidays become a dietary free-for-all. Overindulgence only adds to your stress and guilt. Continue to get plenty of sleep and schedule time for physical activity.

Take a breather. Make some time for yourself. Listen to soothing music. Find something that clears your mind, slows your breathing and restores your calm.

Rethink resolutions. Don't resolve to change your whole life to make up for past excess. Instead, try to return to basic, healthy lifestyle routines. Set smaller, more specific goals with a reasonable time frame.

Forget about perfection. Holiday TV specials are filled with happy endings. But in real life, people don't usually resolve problems within an hour or two. Expect and accept imperfections.

Seek professional help if you need it. Despite your best efforts, you may find yourself feeling persistently sad or anxious, and unable to face routine chores. If these feelings last for several weeks, talk to your doctor or a mental health professional. You may have depression.

This article appeared online at www.mayoclinic.com.

HEALTH CARE CORNER

U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart

Hours of Operation
Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri.: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursdays: 1 to 4 p.m.

Military Sick Call
Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.
Thursdays, 1 to 2 p.m.

Pharmacy
M, T, W, F: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursdays: 1 to 4 p.m.

Immunizations
Walk-in basis
Closed noon to 1 p.m.

Well Baby Care
Every Tuesday

Laboratory
M, T, W, F: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursdays: 1 to 4 p.m.

Physical Exams
Active-duty only (by appt.)
430-6817/civ. 0711-680-6817

Well Woman Care
Every Wednesday

Appointments
430-8610/civ. 0711-680-8610 or 430-8611/civ. 0711-680-8611
Tricare beneficiaries can also make appointments online.
Visit www.tricareonline.com.

Stuttgart Dental Clinic

Hours of Operation
Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Active-Duty Sick Call
Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

All Others Sick Call
Mon. to Fri.: 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Appointments
430-8626/civ. 0711-680-8626

Garmisch Dental Clinic

Hours of Operation
Mon., Wed & Fri: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Tue: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. / Thurs: 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Military Sick Call
Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 8 a.m.

Appointments
440-3414/civ. 08821-750-3414

Note
Dental services are extremely limited for patients other than active-duty service members and their families.

In case of an after-hours emergency call the MP desk to access the on-call patient liaison:
Stuttgart 430-5262/civ. 0711-680-5262 / Garmisch 440-3827/civ. 08821-750-3827

Veterinary Treatment Facility

Hours of Operation Mon. to Fri.: 8 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Appointments 431-2681/civ. 07031-15-2681 or 431-2671/civ. 07031-15-2671	Location Building 2996, Panzer Kaserne
<i>Note</i> <i>The facility is unable to see emergency cases. Thus, community members must become familiar with local German veterinarians. Visit the clinic for a list of German veterinarians in the Stuttgart area.</i>		

Stuttgart Wellness Center

Hours of Operation Mon. to Fri.: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Appointments Call the center at 430-4073/civ. 0711-680-4073	Location Washington Center, Patch Barracks
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Böblingen middle-school students put creativity on display with theater project on Panzer Kaserne

Story & photos by Brandon Beach

Elizabeth Casciaro knows the merits of a hands-on education. Students from her combined 7th/8th-grade class transformed the Boeblingen School Gym into an ancient Greek theater Nov. 2 and performed several original plays, loosely based on Greek myths, to a packed audience of parents, teachers and classmates.

"I knew the only way to hook them was to let them take hold of the subject," said Casciaro. "I wanted them to really pour their creativity into this."

That creativity caught spark several weeks before the Nov. 2 stage performance as students gave the Greek myths a somewhat modern make-over that fit their own vocabulary, infusing words like "cool" and "dang" into their scripts.

They stuck to the original stories, rife with soap-opera drama between this god and that god, the result being a performance laden with punch-lines that could make even a second-grade class squeal with laughter.

They wrote a total of six plays and staged two of them, the final piece, called "The Journey to the Underground," told the story of Persephone's voyage to Hades and his attempt to retrieve his wife, Eurydice, who died from a snake bite.

Only Persephone's melancholy music could convince Hades to agree to the deal; but under one small caveat, she must walk behind him, and he must not look at her until they had both reached Earth. Suffice to say, he fails, being so anxious to know if she's really back there, and she vanishes forever.

Heavy stuff.

Each play had its own chorus, or group of actors, who stood in unison to the left of the stage and narrated the essential parts of the story to the audience. The main actors interacted with each other on the right side.

There were no props, except for one, which all students wore on stage.

To create the right look, students made traditional Greek masks using plaster-based gauze

I knew the only way to hook them was to let them take hold of the subject. I wanted them to pour their creativity into this.

Elizabeth Casciaro
Boeblingen School Teacher

strips called "gips," which can be purchased at either OBI or Hornbach. Mary Jaeger, the school's art teacher, donated enough 'gips' to keep students in a plastering mood all quarter.

The activity, which can easily be done at home, said Casciaro, starts with a heavy layer of Vaseline smeared thoroughly around the face. "If you don't put on enough, you'll rip your eyebrows right off," warned eighth-grader Charlie Molenda, who later added that she was not aware of any cosmetic-related injuries of this kind that had occurred in the class.

Avoid further "injuries" by taping the hairline, recommended Hannah Minton, an eighth-grader. Next, students dipped the gauze into a tray of water and applied the strip onto the face, making sure to leave holes for the eyes, nostrils and mouth.

"The mask is similar to a megaphone," said Casciaro, "and is used to project the actors' voices on stage."

The gauze dries in approximately 10 minutes, which means there is not too much time to play around. The final step is simple. "Just give it a good rip," said Brannon Niblock, an eighth-grader. "It feels like a Band-Aid coming off."

Once fully dry, spray paint it gold, or any base color of your choice, and then pour your "creativity" into it: the most important ingredient in any classroom.

For more about the school and its programs visit www.stut-esb.eu.dodea.edu.



Stuart Jones, and eighth-grader at BEMS, taps down a strip of plaster-based gauze on the face of a relaxed-looking Marcus Lakos. Once dry, the result is an ancient Greek mask.



[Above] A model gets her first look at a traditional Greek mask that was created from her own face. The mask-making process was part of a myth-based theater project undertaken by seventh- and eighth-grade students at Böblingen Elementary School.



[Right] Behind the hooded black cape and deathly gold-painted mask is Justin Turner, who played the role of Hades in the Nov. 2 performance.

Student Corner

Students explore stars, design space mobiles

Story by Maggie Beans & Jamie Rainey

Mrs. Wareham's third-grade class made some excellent space mobiles recently. Out of all the mobiles we found most interesting was Chandler Buchfink's. He built one of the best space mobiles Patch Elementary School has even seen. We asked him why, and he said that he simply did it because he wanted to get a good grade but was also curious where the position of each planet is.

We asked Chandler what he made his model space mobile out of. He said that it was made out of glow stars, a paper plate, a foam cone, foam balls, construction paper, skewers, hot glue, normal and glowing paint and string.



Lastly, we asked him how he felt and he said that he felt illustrious!

Advisory council addresses issues of interest at PES

Story by Betty Roberts
Patch Elementary School

The School Advisory Committee at Patch Elementary School met Nov. 7 to address school issues. SAC consists of parents, teachers and administrators.

The committee addressed numerous issues of interest to the Stuttgart military community including current enrollment, budget figures, textbooks, mentor program, safety, school buses, inclement weather, use of available classrooms in the high school annex and differentiated instruction in the classroom.

Although all issues discussed at the SAC meeting are of interest to the community, providing differentiated instruction, including acceleration - to students of varying abilities is a challenge for PES teachers, parents, administrators and specialists because it is controversial.

The focus is student learning and assessment drives instruction. This will be an ongoing discussion topic because the goal for students and specialists is to provide instruction to students of varying abilities.

There are many sources available at grade level to expand the curriculum to meet the diverse student needs. Flexible groups within the classroom is a research-based practice to meet the needs of differentiated instruction.

The School Advisory Committee meets on a quarterly basis.

If you would like to see the minutes of the SAC meetings and address your concerns, please contact Patch Elementary School at 430-5200/civ. 0711-680-5200.

For additional information visit the school's Web site at visit www.patch-es.eu.dodea.edu.

A reason to be thankful

Culinary artists, community volunteers provide Thanksgiving bounty for Stuttgart residents

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart
Public Affairs Office

Culinary artists and community volunteers collaborated to make Thanksgiving both beautiful and bountiful for members of the Stuttgart military community.

The area's holiday diners were treated to two holiday dinners – Nov. 22 in the Panzer Dining Facility, and Nov. 23 in the Patch DFAC (which is being temporarily housed in the Patch Community Club).

Each event featured an alluring array of holiday delicacies, all of which were accented by mouth-watering display pieces – including a rustic winter scent and a regal swan – that were created with spun sugar, marzipan and old-fashioned ingenuity.

Frank Mottin, executive food service advisor to U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, said that creating both the feasts and the festive atmosphere was the result of weeks of planning and hard work.

“You have to have a feel for it,” Mottin said, “and [DFAC personnel in Stuttgart] believe in doing it right.”

After the professionals had done their part, a contingent of community volunteers staffed the serving lines, offering holiday wishes along with heaping helpings of turkey, cranberry sauce, and more.

“This is a great opportunity to show our community members how much we appreciate them,” said USAG Stuttgart Commander Col. Kenneth G. Juergens, who volunteered for the first serving shift along with his wife, Gaby, his son, Thayer, and members of his garrison staff.

“Our DFAC and Directorate of Logistics staff did a tremendous job to put this all together, and it's an honor for us to work alongside them for the benefit of the community,” Juergens said.

U.S. European Command, the 52nd Signal Battalion, the U.S. Air Force European Mission Support Squadron, Defense Information Systems Agency Europe, Special Operations Command Europe and Boy Scouts also contributed Thanksgiving volunteers.

The staff of the Patch Black Stallion Inn Dining Facility (and a few friends) take a moment to be appreciated for their efforts before the doors open for the community's Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Dinner.



U.S. European Command Deputy Commander Gen. William E. Ward, accompanied by dining facility manager Frank Lacks, gives the thumbs-up to a display of culinary artistry prior to the Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Dinner Nov. 23 in the Patch Barracks Community Club. After touring the facility Ward joined volunteers from the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart staff members on the serving line.



With Sgt. Maj. Charles Tobin looking on, EUCOM Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. William Catto passes a plate to USAG Stuttgart Commander Col. Kenneth G. Juergens during the Dec. 23 Thanksgiving Dinner.



[Above] Frank Valdez is the picture of concentration as he prepares to serve a customer during the Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Dinner in the Patch Community Club.

[Left] Among the many community volunteers who assisted the DFAC staff was a contingent of Boy Scouts, some of whom took on the mouth-watering task of filling the dessert table.



photos by Hugh C. McBride

Happy Holidays!

Stuttgart celebrates season's start with Winterfest



Hugh C. McBride

With the Patch tree serving as a backdrop, U.S. European Command Deputy Commander Gen. William E. Ward announces that the 52nd Signal Battalion tree has been selected as the winner of the 2006 Tree-Decorating Contest.



Tweedy Knef (MWR Marketing)

Elementary students entertain the Winterfest crowd with a selection of holiday favorites. Following a performance by the U.S. Army Europe Quintet, students from all three Stuttgart-area elementary schools (Patch, Robinson Barracks and Böblingen) took to the stage during the annual holiday celebration on Patch Barracks.



Tweedy Knef (MWR Marketing)

[Above left] Santa Claus meets with a young community members in the Patch Chapel gazebo during Winterfest. Community members had the opportunity to meet with Santa following the tree-lighting ceremonies on all area installations.

[Above right] The jolly old elf shares a moment on stage with U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander Col. Kenneth G. Juergens and Klaus Schäfer. Claus presented Schäfer, a German resident of Stuttgart, with a chocolate bar – just as he had done decades earlier when the two met on a U.S. military installation in postwar Germany.

[Right] Santa makes his grand entrance into Patch Barracks's Washington Sqaure following a horse-draw tour of the installation.



Tweedy Knef (MWR Marketing)



Hugh C. McBride

By Hugh C. McBride

The members of the Stuttgart military community celebrated the start of the holiday season with a week's worth of installation-specific celebrations that culminated in a festival of light and music on Patch Barracks.

Following tree-lighting ceremonies on Panzer Kaserne, Kelley Barracks and Robinson Barracks the preceding Monday, Tuesday and Thursday (respectively), celebrants filled Patch's Washington Square Dec. 1 for the community's second annual "Winterfest."

"Winterfest is a way to bring our community together to welcome the holiday season in a family-friendly environment that blends many of the best German and American traditions," said U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander Col. Kenneth G. Juergens.

"Service members and civilians in this community work so hard all year long," Juergens continued, "and this is a great way to thank them for their service."

Temporarily transformed into a mini *Weihnachtsmarkt* (German Christmas Market), the Washington Square parking area was aglow with multi-colored lights and abuzz with holiday cheer.

Traditional music from the main stage mingled with enticing aromas from the refreshment stands as children and adults alike queued up to hear their favorite songs or sample their favorite treats (or, in many cases, to do both). Holiday shoppers were in luck as well, as a number of area artisans and their creations were in attendance.

As fest-goers began to peruse the market area and line up at the food tent, the evening entertainment began with an instrumental medley by the U.S. Army Europe Brass Quintet.

The conclusion of the quintet's performance coincided with the arrival of the evening's guest of honor.

Following a tour of the installation, a horse-drawn carriage delivered Santa Claus to Washington Square in time for performances by choirs from Stuttgart's three elementary schools.

Col. Juergens and his wife, Gaby; and U.S. European Command Deputy Commander Gen. William E. Ward and his wife, Joyce, joined the children for a finale of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

After the choir performances, Santa headed to the Patch Chapel gazebo, Ward and Juergens judged the entries in the garrison's tree-decorating contest [see box at right for results] and then the Jenny Boyle Band took to the stage for 90 minutes of classic pop, original rock and holiday favorites.

Boyle, who came to Stuttgart courtesy of the USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Armed Forces Entertainment, said performing at Winterfest was a wonderful opportunity.

"We had a great time and were happy to be a part of Winterfest," Boyle said. "This world is a better place because of the jobs [service members] do."



Hugh C. McBride

Jenny Boyle, who came to Stuttgart courtesy of the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Armed Forces Entertainment, entertains with a selection of original songs, classic rock tunes and holiday favorites.



Members of the 52 Signal Battalion's tree-decorating team celebrate their victory with EUCOM Deputy Commander Gen. William E. Ward and USAG Stuttgart Commander Col. Kenneth G. Juergens.

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart
Tree-Decorating Contest

1st Place
52nd Signal Battalion

2nd Place
Children & Youth Services

3rd Place
Stuttgart Military Intelligence

Germans, Americans celebrate together at holiday receptions in Stuttgart & Garmisch

By Hugh C. McBride

The winter holiday season was celebrated in a truly multicultural fashion on U.S. installations in Stuttgart and Garmisch.

To continue the garrison mission of enhancing German-American relations, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander Col. Kenneth G. Juergens and his wife, Gaby, hosted holiday receptions in both Stuttgart and Garmisch.

"The holidays are traditionally a time of reflection and togetherness, and this is another great opportunity for us to get together with our German friends, neighbors and colleagues to thank them for their continued support and cooperation," Col. Juergens said. "German-American relations are one of the top priorities of my command, and I can't say enough great things about the superior support we get from our host-nation colleagues in both Stuttgart and Garmisch."

Günther Henne, director of public order for the city of Böblingen, who attended USAG Stuttgart's Dec. 8 reception, echoed the commander's assessment. "This is a wonderful event, and it is a great opportunity to spend time with our American friends," he said.

The Stuttgart event was held in the historic Böblingen Community Club – a facility that dates to pre-war Germany, but which has seen minimal usage in previous years.

Guests marvelled at the location, with holiday decorations accenting permanent features such as a wall-sized mural (painted in 1939) that dominates the grand ballroom.

Opposite the mural, both the U.S. Army Europe brass quintet and noted mezzo-soprano Tichina Vaughn performed from a balcony overlooking the crowd.

Historic artwork also played a role in the Garmisch reception, as the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort features a large Garmisch mural that hung for many years in the now-shuttered General Patton Hotel.

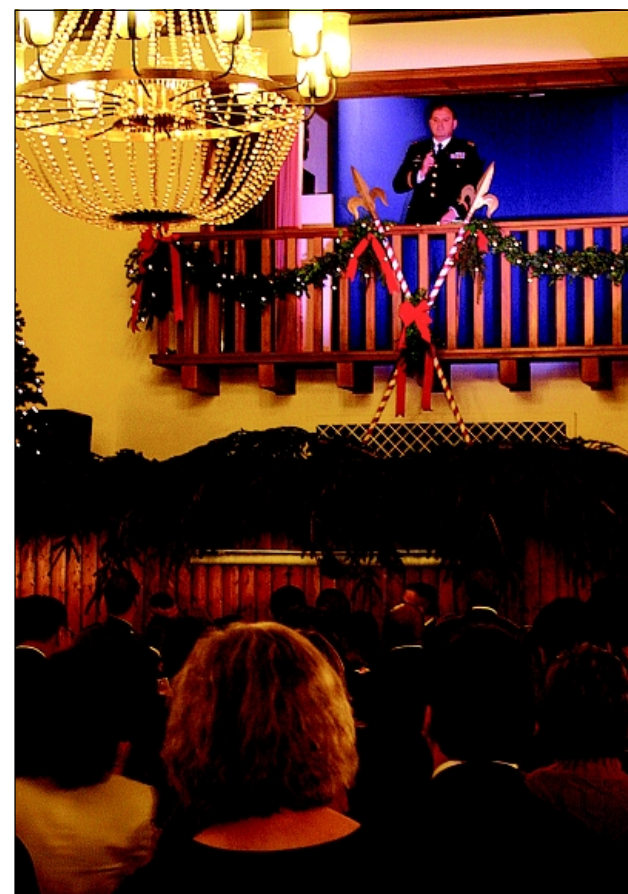
In addition to history, reception guests in both locations were also treated to scrumptious buffets, Christmas carols, a visit from Santa Claus, and "lucky Pfennigs" from traditionally dressed chimney sweeps.

[Right] Traditionally dressed chimney sweeps present Joyce Ward with a "lucky Pfennig" at the USAG Stuttgart Holiday Reception

[Below] The Garmisch American School Children's Choir performs for an appreciative audience (inset) during the Dec. 19 USAG Garmisch Holiday reception.



Irmela Griesinger-Paschen, German president of Stuttgart's German-American Women's Club, makes beautiful music with Santa Claus during the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Holiday Reception Dec. 8 in the Böblingen Community Club.



[Above] U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander Col. Kenneth G. Juergens welcomes attendees to the garrison's Dec. 8 Holiday Reception in the historic Böblingen Community Club.

[Left] USAG Garmisch Garrison Manager Karin Santos greets guests during Garmisch's Dec. 19 event.





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Garmisch students take on Shakespearian 'challenge' with performance of 'The Tempest'

Story and photos by Sue Ferrare

Members of the Garmisch American School 8th grade drama class played to a standing room only crowd on the evening of Nov. 16 when they performed Shakespeare's "The Tempest."

Even more impressive was the fact that every student in the 8th grade had a role in the play. Drama class teacher Elizabeth Williams explained that one of the criteria for choosing that play was that everyone would have a role.

The students helped choose which play they would put on after Williams narrowed down the list of choices. In the end she was pleased the class chose "The Tempest."

"I wanted to choose something that was literary and meaningful," she said. "I was always intrigued by 'The Tempest' since it has such a wonderful storyline, all those plots and themes – it was a bit of a challenge. Part of the challenge was they had to learn how to say some of those words and understand what they meant."

Another challenge for some of the students was playing roles that were different than their real personalities. Student Jackie Richardson, who played the spirit Ariel had originally wanted another role.

"I actually wanted the role of Miranda," she said. "Ariel, she's dainty and very hidden, and that's really not like me because I'm very open. I played the exact opposite of what I am. It was a challenge at first but then I got more into the role. In the end I'm happy with the role I got. I think I played the role well."

Mary Hickox also had a difficult role in that she played the leading man, Prospero. She used his personality and situation to help her play the role, she said.

"Even though I was playing a guy – that was what I found hard about it – I really enjoyed that I was kind of a comforting person," she said. "I played the part with enthusiasm like a loving father would. I loved my daughter and I wanted her to go to a good husband. And the husband, I put him through a whole bunch of trials and tribulations and I accused him of many things and that would be like a real father would. They want the best for their daughter. Even though I was playing a guy, it could relate it to a real world situation that I could perform."

For some students the hardest part was not which characters to play, but how to play their characters.

"The hardest part was figuring out how to say each individual line," said James

Gardiner. "You have to think about what is happening in the scene, what has happened, what the character is thinking, what other people are saying."

Although there were some difficult times leading up to the actual play, Will-

I was always intrigued by 'The Tempest' since it has such a wonderful storyline, all those plots and themes - it was a bit of a challenge.

Elizabeth Williams
Garmisch American School

iams said she thought they did a wonderful job.

"Up until the last minute, you don't know," she said. "I'm always very pleasantly surprised. It went very well I thought. Somehow they pull it all together."

Richardson, Hickox and Gardiner all agreed that they worked well together. Hickox put it best when she said, "in the end, something clicked and it all worked out."

"This class has totally different personalities, but at the very end it almost seemed as though we put our differences aside and worked together as a team," she continued. "It was like a big body."

"Like one person," said Richardson.

"With the play, we put all that (disagreements) off," Gardiner said.

"Theater is wonderful for kids," Williams said. "First of all it's a wonderful activity to bring kids together socially. But also it's something that they'll remember all their lives."

For more about upcoming events in the Garmisch military community visit www.garmisch.army.mil.



[Top] Whitney Sattler plays Ferdinand in the Nov. 16 performance of "The Tempest."
[Inset, lf to rt] Mary Hickox, Brianne Brown and Sattler enact a scene on stage.

Air Force Band brings Dixie sound to Garmisch

Story and photo by Sue Ferrare

The Air Force put a little jazz into the holiday festivities when their band, Wings of Dixie, performed at the Garmisch American School on November 14.

The Wings of Dixie is a six person band that is part of the larger U.S. Air Force in Europe Band which is stationed at Sembach Air Base. It is the only ensemble of its kind representing the U.S. Air Forces in Europe and has been in existence for more than a decade. Their goal is to celebrate the American tradition of Dixieland jazz at every performance.

The students responded quickly to the lively jazz being played up on stage and clapped along to the music. But the performance wasn't just fun without any learning; each member of the band introduced themselves and their musical instrument and illustrated to the students how it worked. Band members also asked students questions to see how much they understood, as well as taking questions from the audience.

Throughout the performance students were treated to classic jazz such as the 'Bourbon Street Parade,' favorites like 'Supercalifragilistic' and 'When the Saints



Members of Wings of Dixie, an Air Force jazz band, perform Nov. 14 in Garmisch.

Go Marchin' In,' as well as 'Minnie the Moocher' by Cab Calloway where they could sing along with the nonsense words in the song.

After every song the students cheered loudly and they shouted for more at the end of the performance.

Technical Sergeant Collins, Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the band, said that when they can they try to get at least one band from the USAFE Band to each school every year.

"For being in a school with young kids, this is probably one of the best bands to do this kind of thing," Tech. Sgt. Collins said while talking about playing at schools. "We're rewarded by getting to do things like this."



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Third-grader Frances Rhodes (lf) helps Bethany Belleque paint symbols on a piece of burlap.



Joseph Embler, a kindergartener, paints a story with Indian symbols on his "animal skin."



[Above] Mrs. Wert, a Garmisch American School teacher, leads a group through the motions to the song, "Witchi Tai," as part of the school's Colonial Day activities. [Left] Saphia Iniguez puts together a cornhusk doll.

Garmisch students have fun while learning during Thanksgiving celebrations at school

Story & photos by Sue Ferrare

Garmisch American School teachers and students transformed traditional festivities into learning experiences to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday this year.

The first event the Kindergarten through 5th-grade students experienced was Colonial Day, which was held on Nov. 14. Throughout the day, teachers walked around in colonial or Indian style dress and taught the children different things about life in colonial times. The teachers also encouraged students to wear an Indian or colonial costume and some even helped the students make their own.

"I like to think of it as a kind of living museum," said Erica Hansen, GAS 4th-grade teacher. "That's why we try to encourage people to dress up: just to give (the students) an idea of something colonial."

Hansen said she brought Colonial Day to GAS from the school she taught at in California. She felt it was a great opportunity for students to learn, since many of them had never had a chance to visit a reenactment site.

The event was set up so that every student rotated through each of the six classrooms and did an activity chosen by that classroom's teacher.

To make it more of a community activity, each grade was divided up into six groups and students from each group were put together with students of the other

I like to think of it as a kind of living museum. That's why we try to encourage people to dress up.

Erica Hansen

Garmisch American School Teacher

grades, so there was an even amount of children from each grade in all the groups. This allowed the big kids to help the little kids, Hansen explained.

In the Kindergarten classroom, students were taught an Indian song and weaving. Students learned an Indian stick game in 1st grade and Hopscotch and the Ring Toss in 5th grade. Students made butter in the 3rd grade classroom and learned how Indians made pictures and stories with paint and symbols in the 2nd and 4th grade classrooms.

Fourth graders James A. Adaryukov and Alexander Donnelly said they liked the ring toss, while Tess Laub and Michael Beans enjoyed making butter.

"It was really nice because we did a bunch of stuff from colonial times so it gave us a good experience of what it was like back then," said 5th grader Olivia Tedesco. "I learned that we have a lot of things that they didn't have

back then."

"At each activity they go to they are getting a little bit or taste of what colonial life was like," said Susan Ussey, the GAS principal. "This fits very well with their social studies standards. Grades Kindergarten through 5th are learning about homes and communities and they are learning about this period of time, the beginning of American colonization."

The day before Thanksgiving the 1st grade class had another opportunity to learn while making a Thanksgiving feast.

Not only did they learn about measuring and making food, but it was also about cultural exchange, because a class of 1st graders from a German school in Grainau came to celebrate and learn about Thanksgiving with them.

Throughout the morning the German and American students helped each other prepare a typical Thanksgiving meal, including stuffed

Cornish hens, sweet potatoes, cornbread muffins and pumpkin ice cream pie. First Grade teacher Phyllis Keely set up groups to rotate in and out of the kitchen.

Students who weren't cooking did other activities, such as learning how to make cornhusk dolls and Indian games, or setting the table for the feast.

While the 1st graders prepared for their feast, the Kindergarteners were preparing a performance to show their parents how much they had learned about Thanksgiving.

During the performance, Kindergarten teacher Jamie Wert gave students a chance to answer questions about the first Thanksgiving. They also said the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the songs America, Over the River and Through the Wood and an Indian Thanksgiving song Witchi Tai, which they asked their parents to help sing.

Wert said the performance was the first time many of her students had performed in front of anybody.

"It's an opportunity to perform," she said. "It promotes self-confidence and it's an experience you only get standing in front of a much bigger crowd than your peers."

She also said that by inviting the parents to participate in the song and share what they are thankful for, she hopes her students learn about the spirit of Thanksgiving.

"It's the whole spirit of Thanksgiving of inviting the community here and to participate with them," she said.

Germany's only self-proclaimed 'outlet city' beckons holiday shoppers from all over Europe

Story & photos by Brandon Beach

In Metzingen, it's simple. Find the bargain. Match the fit. Hustle to the register. There's absolutely no time to linger or strike up small talk, because in a city that proclaims to be the glorified "Mecca" of factory outlets, the lines can get unnervingly long.

Located 40 km. south of Stuttgart in the heart of the *Schwäbische Alb* countryside, Metzingen is Germany's only city devoted to outlet shopping.

But unlike the pop-up cookie-cutter outlet strips you find on the side of major highways in the U.S., Metzingen finds a way to maintain its old world charm and still ring up your credit card all at the same time.

But most people don't flock to the city to check out its museums, *Fachwerkhäuser* (half-timbered houses) or Baroque public plazas. Cultural enrichment is not high on the bill.

Instead, they come to scour the sales racks, and most especially, the ones found in the Hugo Boss factory.

"Here it's 50% off the normal prices you would find in France," said shopper Magid Gmour.

That's the reason he, along with eight of his closest buddies, drove 715 km. from Lyon one Saturday morning in a cramped rental van.

They left at just before midnight on Friday evening, swapping shifts at the wheel throughout the night and stopping only to gas up, get snacks and pee. Their timing couldn't have been more perfect.

They arrived in Metzingen at half past 7, leaving them 30 minutes to find a parking spot, grab a coffee and wedge themselves into the small crowd already feverishly gathered near the Hugo Boss entrance. Doors open on Saturdays at 8 a.m.

Before Tommy Hilfiger, Nike, Levi's or even Reebok came along, there was only one name in town.

That was Hugo Boss, a German designer of high-end men's fashion, who headquartered his fledgling factory in Metzingen way back in 1923.

Sometime in the late 1960's, following the release of its popular men's suit, Boss opened its factory for retail sales and soon welcomed a massive influx of customers from all over Europe.

It became so popular that other stores followed in its wake, and the city had a sort of outlet boom in the early 1990's. Metzingen

But unlike the pop-up cookie-cutter outlet strips you find on the side of major highways in the U.S., Metzingen finds a way to maintain its old world charm and still ring up your credit card all at the same time.

has never been the same since.

Today, several airlines fly serious bargain hunters from Berlin, Hannover, Leipzig and numerous other German hubs to the Stuttgart airport, where buses stand ready to transport shoppers directly to Metzingen for a day spent hovering over sales racks.

It's not the ideal vacation for everyone, but it sure beats driving the entire night with eight dudes in a van.

How to get there

Metzingen is located 40 km. south of Stuttgart and easily reached by Autobahn 8 in direction to Munich. At the Stuttgart airport, take the B27 exit and shortly after that the B312.

There are several places to park in the city. The most accessible is the parking structure next to the Hugo Boss factory, which charges 4 euro for the day. At Lindenplatz, which serves as the heart of the outlet hustle and bustle, there is an outdoor dirt lot that is free.

Need a place closer

You can't beat *Königsstraße*, Stuttgart's premiere pedestrian shopping strip, for that last-minute holiday rush. Just take any S-train to *Hauptbahnhof* to get there.

For those who like everything under one roof, check out *Breuninger*, a four-storied department store on Marktplatz 1-3. Afterwards, take the escalator down to the first floor and unwind with a coffee at Café FLO.

Esslingen, located just north of Stuttgart along the Neckar River, gives shoppers a medieval backdrop in which to scour the trendy shops that dot *Bahnhofstraße*. Afterward, take a stroll through the city's Christmas Market for warm *Glühwein* and a slice of onion cake.



[Above] A young girl models a stylish coat in front of the mirror at Diesel, one of the many outlet stores in Metzingen that caters to the fashion-conscious consumer.



[Right] Shoppers in Metzingen often carry an intense look of trying to match the right fit, the right color at the right price. A word of advice to novice shoppers: At all cost, avoid getting in their way.



The geese may not look forward to it, but culinary enthusiasts celebrate Nov. 11, or St. Martin's Day, as the start of a special season in Germany.

Lanterns, geese mark St. Martin's Day lore

Story & photo by Brandon Beach

On St. Martin's Day, children light up the streets with paper lanterns.

Their march, which ends at churches around the world on Nov. 11, signals the start of the advent season.

For the culinary minded, the day marks the arrival of a new dish on the menu: goose, or as they say in Germany, *gans*.

Here in Stuttgart there are many places to grab a traditional goose dinner. For start-

ers try Café Heller on *Herzogstrasse* in the Stuttgart West district.

For 13 euro, get your bird plus sides of applesauce, German dumplings, red beats and Brussels sprouts.

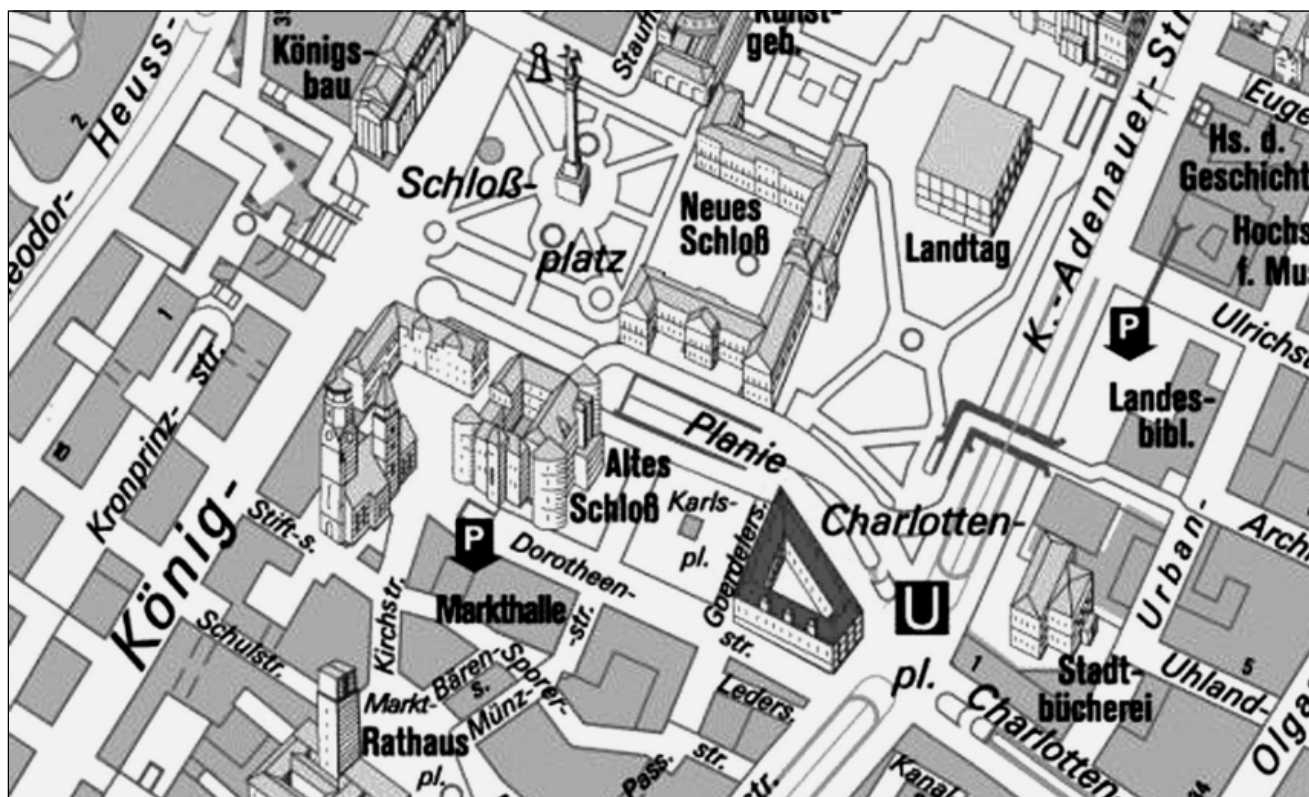
You can even save a euro by getting the goose to go.

If you prefer a more off-the-beaten-path locale, try **Gasthaus Zum Lamm** in Korb, which serves goose seven nights a week up until Christmas Day.

Tables fill up fast, so it's best to make a reservation by calling 07151-32577.



A couple passes the René Lezard store front carrying the spoils of a busy shopping day.



map courtesy ifa

Conveniently located near the heart of downtown Stuttgart (just a short walk from the Neues Schloss, Stadt Bibliothek and shop-lined Königstrasse), the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations gallery is at the center of the city's efforts to promote cultural exchange through its many rotating art exhibits, such as its current exhibit, "Nafas."

Downtown gallery achieves cultural dialogue through art

Culture is the only commodity that grows if you share it.

-Hans-Georg Gadamer

Story & photo by Brandon Beach

Germany's leading institute on foreign cultural relations is headquartered right here in Stuttgart.

With galleries in Berlin, Bonn and Stuttgart, the *Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen*, better known as IFA, promotes cultural exchange through its many rotating art exhibits.

Its current exhibit, "Nafas: Contemporary Art from the Islamic World," is on display until Jan. 7 and features a diverse collection of art mediums opening up a multilayered dialogue between artist and viewer.

Housing paintings, photographs, digital artwork and documentary film shorts from artists residing in countries from North Africa to Indonesia under one roof, the exhibit continues IFA's extended yearlong series "Islamic Worlds."

Previous exhibits have featured topics on Arabian fashion, architecture and photography.

In its quest toward a "dialogue beyond boundaries," IFA also promotes contemporary German artists in other transforming countries through exhibits. In 1999 alone, 65 different exhibits were showcased in some 230 cities worldwide, according to the IFA Web site (www.ifa.de).

These "touring exhibitions" establish direct contact between artists and audiences of differing cultures.

"Art is able to support the progress of intercultural exchange," said Stefanie Alber, the gallery's director. "The artists in a sense are seen as modern nomads."

Institute of services

Founded in 1917, IFA continues its tradition of cultural dialogue and study by offering a wide range of invaluable services to the Stuttgart community.

Tucked away in the center courtyard of the Charlottenplatz yellow building, the institute has a library with an extensive collection of material about foreign cultural politics.

With its vast archives (407,000 books and 1,400 magazines and newspapers), the library is the only one in Germany specializing in international relations. Many of the library's books and magazines are in English.

Each quarter, IFA publishes its own magazine "Zeitschrift für Kultur-Austausch" (Journal for Cultural Exchange); copies can be found in the library.

Library hours are Tuesdays to Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m. Additional hours are available Wednesdays until 7 p.m.

Community members interested in getting a better grasp of their "der, die, das" can sign up for one of the IFA's many German language courses. From intensive (Mondays to Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 1:15 to 5:45 p.m.) to less intensive (evenings for 2.5 hours), IFA caters to those with full-time jobs who need a weekly dose of *Deutsch* to those who want a crash course.

How to get there

The gallery is located on Charlottenplatz 17 (U-Bahn stop Charlottenplatz). Opening hours are Tuesdays to Fridays, noon to 6 p.m. and weekends 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Additional evening hours are Thursdays until 8 p.m.

The exhibit is open until Jan. 7. Entrance is free.

For more information visit www.ifa.de.



photo courtesy ifa



[Top] Bahrainian-artist Waheeda Malullah's photograph, "Stopped Ball," is currently on display at the IFA gallery. [Bottom] A dog and owner take a late afternoon stroll near the IFA library.

OUT & ABOUT

Christmas Circus in town

The World Christmas Circus will stage daily shows in Stuttgart's *Cannstatter Wasen* through Jan. 9. Along with death-defying acrobatics and unforgettable clowns, this year's circus features a spectacular fireworks show.

Tickets range from 14 to 41 euro. For tickets call 0711-559-5620.

Velodrome cycling in Stuttgart

Stuttgart's Schleyerhalle will be converted into a modern-day velodrome as the world's top bicyclist to compete in the thrilling Hofbräu 6-Day Race Jan. 18 to 23.

Tickets are 15 euro and include a seat close to the action plus entrance to the many disco parties held in the hall's basement level.

For more information visit www.schleyerhalle.de or call 0711-255-5555. The hall is located at Mercedesstrasse 69 (U-Bahn U11: Gottlieb-Daimler Stadion stop).

Fussball in Stuttgart

Catch live Bundesliga action when VfB Stuttgart, takes to the field against Arminia Bielefeld Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m., in Bad Cannstatt's Gottlieb-Daimler Stadion (S-Bahn Neckarstadion).

For tickets visit www.vfb-stuttgart.de or stop by the stadium's ticket box on game day.

Three Musketeers, the musical

SI Centrum's Apollo Theatre presents the swash-buckling musical smash, "The Three Musketeers."

Tickets range from 40 to 139 euro depending on seating and may be purchased by calling 01805-4444.

The theater is located on Pleningerstraße 100, which is a short 5-minute walk from the Kelley Barracks main gate. To get there, take city train U3 to the Salzacker/SI-Erlebnis-Centrum stop. City buses 74 and 75 will deliver you to the Landhaus stop.

For more information on dates and times visit www.si-centrum.de.

DAZ events in January

Michelle Wright, Ph.D., a professor of comparative literature at the University of Minnesota, will deliver the lecture, "Looking Back and Looking Forward: The Surprising Legacies of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the American Civil Rights Movement," Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m., in the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum.

Every month, English speaking people from around the world meet to discuss a variety of topics over food and drink. Known as the "Stammtisch Transatlantic," the group meets Jan. 11, 8 p.m., in Plenum, a restaurant located on Konrad-Adenauer-Straße 3.

To commemorate American actor Humphrey Bogart's 50th-year anniversary, following his death in 1957, DAZ will present "To Have and To Have Not," a movie adapted from Ernest Hemingway's famous wartime novel, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m. and "Key Largo," a classic gangster film with Lauren Bacall as Bogart's on-screen flame, Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m.

The center is located at Charlottenplatz 17 (U-Bahn 5 or 6). For a complete list of DAZ-sponsored activities visit www.daz.org or call 0711-228180.

Night of Musicals gala

See original stars from popular musical productions such as Grease, Cabaret, Phantom of the Opera, Lion King, Cats and more at the 10th-annual Night of Musicals Jan. 16, 8 p.m., in Reutlingen's Friedrich-List Hall. Next year, the show debuts in Stuttgart's Liederhalle (Berliner Platz 1-3) March 14, 8 p.m.

For tickets to the Reutlingen premiere call 07121-302290 or visit www.asa-event.com.

The Nutcracker ballet

The Stuttgart Ballet performs Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, a fairy-tale ballet in two acts, Dec. 19 to 22, 7 p.m.

For tickets visit www.staatstheater.stuttgart.de. Tickets range from 15 to 25 euro with children and student discounts available. The hall is located at Oberer Schlossgarten 6 (U-Bahn Charlottenplatz stop).

Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast

17 January

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Patch Dining Facility

\$1.65 E-4 & below

\$1.95 All Others

Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not A Day Off!

Contact SFC Jacqueline Galloway DSN 421-2892 or HANDY 0162-297-5922, Belinda Stoll DSN 421-2585